

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal apparatus in a system which is formed by a management apparatus and a plurality of terminal apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:
  - 5 reception means for receiving management information which is transmitted from another terminal apparatus or the management apparatus, and contains instructions used to manage the plurality of terminal apparatuses;
  - 10 processing means for executing a process according to a corresponding instruction with reference to the received management information;
  - search means for searching the plurality of terminal apparatuses for a terminal apparatus which has  
15 not received the management information yet; and
  - transfer means for transferring the management information to the terminal apparatus detected by said search means.
- 20 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means executes at least one of an installation process of a program, a delete process of a program which is held in advance, a launch process of a program which is held in advance or is installed, an  
25 execution quit process of a running program, an environment setup process of a program which is held in advance , and a process for acquiring status of a

program which is held in advance and sending the acquired status to the management apparatus, in accordance with the corresponding instruction contained in the management information.

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3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management information contains a program to be installed.

10 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management information contains an installation instruction of a program to the terminal apparatus, and an address of an external apparatus that holds the program on the network, and

15 said processing means specifies the external apparatus with reference to the address, and downloads the corresponding program from the specified external apparatus.

20 5. A management system which is formed by a plurality of terminal apparatuses connected to a network, and a management apparatus which can make data communications with the plurality of terminal apparatuses and manages the plurality of terminal  
25 apparatuses,

said management apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting instructions for one of  
the plurality of terminal apparatuses;

generation means for generating management  
information that contains the input instructions on the  
5 basis of the input instructions;

specifying means for specifying one of the  
plurality of terminal apparatuses as a transmission  
destination of the management information; and

transmission means for transmitting the  
10 management information to the specified one terminal  
apparatus, and

each terminal apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving management  
information which is transmitted from another terminal  
15 apparatus or the management apparatus, and contains  
instructions used to manage the plurality of terminal  
apparatuses;

processing means for executing a process  
according to a corresponding instruction with reference  
20 to the received management information;

search means for searching the plurality of  
terminal apparatuses for a terminal apparatus which has  
not received the management information yet; and

transfer means for transferring the management  
25 information to the terminal apparatus detected by said  
search means.

6. The system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a server apparatus which holds a program to be  
5 installed in each terminal apparatus, and

wherein the management information contains an  
installation instruction of a program to the terminal  
apparatus, and an address of the server apparatus that  
holds the program on the network, and

10 said processing means specifies the server  
apparatus with reference to the address, and downloads  
the corresponding program from the specified server  
apparatus.

15 7. A method of controlling a terminal apparatus in a  
system which is formed by a management apparatus and a  
plurality of terminal apparatuses connected to a  
network, comprising:

a reception step of receiving management  
20 information which is transmitted from another terminal  
apparatus or the management apparatus, and contains  
instructions used to manage the plurality of terminal  
apparatuses;

a processing step of executing a process  
25 according to a corresponding instruction with reference  
to the received management information;

a search step of searching the plurality of terminal apparatuses for a terminal apparatus which has not received the management information yet; and

a transfer step of transferring the management  
5 information to the terminal apparatus detected in the search step.

8. A program for making a computer execute a control method of a terminal apparatus of claim 7.

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9. A computer readable storage medium storing a program of claim 8.

10. A terminal apparatus in a system which is formed  
15 by a management apparatus and a plurality of terminal apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

reception means for receiving management information which is transmitted from another apparatus via a network, and contains terminal information  
20 indicating a target terminal apparatus and processing information indicating processing contents;

processing means for executing a process corresponding to the processing information which is contained in the management information and indicates  
25 the processing contents;

appending means for appending completion  
information indicating completion of the process in the  
apparatus to the management information; and

transmission means for transmitting the  
5 management information appended with the completion  
information to another terminal apparatus indicated by  
the terminal information.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said  
10 transmission means transmits the management information  
to the management apparatus when the completion  
information has been appended by all the terminal  
apparatuses indicated by the terminal information.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, further  
15 comprising notification means for, when said  
transmission means transmits the management information  
to the other terminal apparatus, notifying the  
management apparatus of completion of the process based  
20 on the management information.

13. The apparatus according to claim 10, further  
comprising:

storage means for storing the management  
25 information which has already been processed; and

check means for checking whether or not  
management information received by said reception means  
is already stored in said storage means, and

wherein said processing means skips a process  
5 based on the received management information when said  
check means determines that the received management  
information is already stored.